

## The Role of the Liquor Commission

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) was created by the Michigan Legislature in Act 8, PA of 1933 (Ex. Sess.) following the repeal of Prohibition.

The commission was created to control the alcoholic beverage traffic within the state. This responsibility includes the licensing of businesses that sell alcoholic beverages, the collection of excise and specific taxes, and the enforcement of liquor laws.

In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, the commission issued 16,200 retail licenses and 7,300 non-retail licenses (including transfers). Revenue collected from licensing functions was \$11.8 million with \$9.8 of that amount returnable to local governmental units for enforcement and support services. Revenue to the state via excise and specific taxes exceeded \$161million.

## Licensed Sellers Only!

A license is required to sell any type of alcohol in Michigan. The license must be issued by the state Liquor Control Commission.

A liquor "license" is a contract between the commission and the licensee granting authority to that licensee to manufacture and sell or sell, or warehouse alcoholic liquor in the manner provided by Act 58 of 1998 (MCL 436.1107(10)).

Several consequences result from the sale of alcohol via unauthorized channels:

- Alcohol is more available to minors,
- Distributors avoid paying taxes on the sale of alcohol,
- Distributors may be able to avoid state quality laws,
- Responsible local suppliers may be closed due to lack of business.

Senate and House bills have been introduced to give state attorneys more power to enforce their laws by giving states authority to bring actions in federal court for violation of state alcohol laws.

## Commission Recommendations

Protect yourself from costly litigation and possible criminal investigation for the violation of Michigan liquor laws.

- Do not purchase alcoholic beverages from unauthorized sources. All retail licensees must buy beer and wine from designated licensed wholesalers. All liquor must be purchased from the state and delivered by an authorized distribution agent (MCL 436.1203 and 436.1205).
- Do not deliver any packages marked "adult signature required" without knowing the contents of the package and its origin – the supplier must be licensed in the state of Michigan and the recipient must be 21 yrs of age to receive any alcoholic beverage.
- Ask if the alcohol shipper is licensed to sell alcohol in Michigan. You can contact the MLCC to verify a license (1-800-701-0513).
- Contact local law enforcement or the MLCC (number above) if you suspect unauthorized alcohol delivery is taking place.

# What To Do & Who To Contact

Whether you are the shipper, a driver for UPS, Federal Express or other delivery service, or are the recipient of a package you did not authorize (perhaps ordered by an underage person in your home) your best course of action is to refuse delivery until proper certification can be obtained.

If you are a delivery person, question the contents of a box that is marked "adult signature required." In most states reaching age 18 qualifies as an adult however, the earliest age for legal purchase or consumption of alcohol is not until age 21. If the package has no identifying labels on it but comes from a party store, winery, pub, distillery or other alcohol related business, it is in your best interest to ask for ID from the recipient of the package and to verify that they are of legal drinking age.

If you are the recipient of an unknown package and do not recognize the sender, you have the right to simply refuse the package.

If you have any questions about interstate or Internet alcohol sales, contact your local law enforcement agency or the Enforcement Division of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission at (517) 322-1370.

Michigan Liquor Control Commission  
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## SHIPPING & RECEIVING ALCOHOL IN MICHIGAN



7150 Harris Drive  
PO Box 30005  
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[WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/DLEG](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/DLEG)